

Letters of Support

JAMES B. HUNT, JR.
GOVERNOR OF NORTH CAROLINA
1977-1985 1993-2001

January 14, 2010

The Honorable Beverly Eaves Perdue
Governor of North Carolina
Office of the Governor
20301 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-0301

Re: North Carolina Race to the Top Proposal

Dear Governor Perdue:

I have gone through our North Carolina Race to the Top (RttT) proposal and endorse it enthusiastically!

You have a solid and far-sighted plan to fundamentally change the effectiveness of North Carolina's public schools. And, I appreciate you sharing it with the North Carolina Legislators Education Retreat which the Hunt Institute sponsored last week. Jon Schnur and others who presented there saw the commitment of our state's education and policy leaders to carry it through.

As the Governor who, with your help, put into place most of our state's standards and accountability approaches in the last three decades of the 1900s, I am delighted to see how our RttT proposal moves these things forward.

The document you have prepared has big and determined plans for North Carolina to achieve our goals in all four areas. You have said that we intend to be the first state to adopt the common core standards. Our Plan has a strong, practical approach to increasing teacher and principal effectiveness and we are committed to see that our underperforming schools get better teaching. After several years of planning, we will finally now have an effective data system that is easy to use by teachers, principals, superintendents and public policy makers and we will use it to increase student learning, including relating teacher and principal compensation to student achievement. And, you have in our Plan a strong commitment to turn

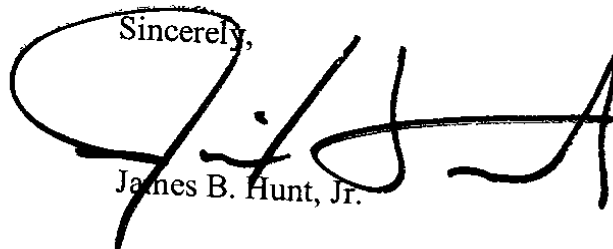
around low-performing schools led by the Chairman of our State Board of Education himself.

A notable feature of our Plan (unlike some states) is that we have full support from our teachers, administrators, school boards and our education leaders. We may be the only state in America where the public University System and Community College System have gone on record with complete support of the RttT plan.

As Secretary Duncan and the team at the US Department of Education consider our Plan, I hope they will consider your own personal, strong leadership to improve education at all levels in North Carolina over the last two decades and the historical leadership of Terry Sanford, myself and others in moving North Carolina forward in a bold and powerful way. And we put the public funds in to do it. They can "bet on North Carolina" because we are a team and a "public education state."

All my best regards, and congratulations on our fine Plan.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "J. B. Hunt, Jr.", written in a cursive style. The signature is positioned above the printed name "James B. Hunt, Jr.".

James B. Hunt, Jr.

JBH:sre



Office of the Speaker
North Carolina House of Representatives
Raleigh 27601-1096

January 15, 2010

JOE HACKNEY
SPEAKER

The Honorable Beverly Perdue
Governor, State of North Carolina
20301 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-0301

Dear Governor Perdue:

On behalf of the North Carolina House of Representatives, I am pleased to offer enthusiastic support for our State's application for federal *Race to the Top* funding.

Education has, for years, been a top priority in the North Carolina House of Representatives. In our current weak economy, education is even more important because jobs are at a premium and employers have a greater pool of workers from which to choose. While our smaller budget in 2009 prevented us from investing more this year than we had in previous years, we were still able to address many important issues. Providing our children with a world class education is the best way to build a strong economy that will be sustainable in the long term, so we worked diligently this year to pass legislation that will improve the quality of education across the state, keep our children safe at school, and decrease the dropout rate.

You and I know that North Carolina has been a national leader in education. We were one of the first states to adopt an accountability model that provides student performance data. This data has allowed educators and policy makers to make smart decisions about where to focus dollars and attention in order to improve classroom instruction and teacher performance in every school and every school system. The North Carolina Dropout Prevention grants, now in their third year, have funneled \$35 million to community stakeholders, education agencies, and school systems to increase our high school graduation rate. We have the most teachers who are nationally board certified. And The University of North Carolina and the State Community College System are proven partners with our public schools.

North Carolina's application for *Race to the Top* funding will enable us to move to the next level by taking bold, innovative steps so that all of our children, no matter where they live or what their circumstances, will complete high school and be well-prepared to enter 21st Century careers or further their education.

Thank you for your passionate commitment to public education in North Carolina. I look forward to continuing to work with you in this endeavor.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Joe Hackney".

Joe Hackney

JH:erf



NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

SENATOR MARC BASNIGHT

RALEIGH 27601-2808

January 13, 2010

The Honorable Beverly Perdue
Governor of North Carolina
20301 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-0301

Dear Governor Perdue:

As President Pro Tempore of the North Carolina Senate, I am writing to express my full support for North Carolina's *Race to the Top* application. As you know, improving educational and economic opportunities for the people of our state has been a top priority for the Senate. I am certain that this grant will greatly enrich the education of every child in North Carolina, and will better prepare our students to succeed in college and the workplace, and enhance our ability to compete in the global economy.

The General Assembly remains unwavering in our dedication to funding public education in North Carolina, and *Race to the Top* will provide North Carolina with further framework to move our schools forward into the 21st century.

I join you in the commitment to North Carolina's development of an innovative and comprehensive approach to improving education through *Race to the Top* initiatives.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marc Basnight".

Marc Basnight
President Pro Tempore



The University of North Carolina

POST OFFICE BOX 2688, CHAPEL HILL, NC 27515-2688

ERSKINE B. BOWLES, *President*

Telephone: (919) 962-1000 FAX: (919) 843-9695

E-mail: ebowles@northcarolina.edu

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Fayetteville State
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Technical State
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Central University

North Carolina
State University
at Raleigh

University of
North Carolina
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North Carolina
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University

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North Carolina
School of Science
and Mathematics

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January 14, 2010

The Honorable Beverly E. Perdue
Governor, State of North Carolina
Office of the Governor
20301 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-0301

Dear Governor Perdue:

On behalf of the 17-campus University of North Carolina, I am writing to offer my enthusiastic support of North Carolina's application for federal funding under the *Race to the Top* Initiative. I assure you that the University and each of its campuses stand ready to be full partners in achieving the ambitious goals you have set out for public education in North Carolina.

Throughout my tenure as UNC President, I have insisted that our University do all it possibly can to improve and strengthen our public schools. I remain convinced that nothing is more important to North Carolina's social and economic future. In classrooms all across the state, for example, we have a crying need for more and better teachers. We also have a chronic need for better prepared principals and superintendents. We have accepted this as our responsibility and are determined to be an active part of the solution.

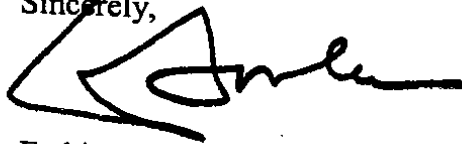
While we have made strides in producing more classroom teachers—with a focus on high-need areas such as math, science, and middle-grades education—it is critical that we have better longitudinal data and the analytical tools needed to make informed choices about how to strategically invest scarce resources. When I arrived as UNC president, I was surprised to learn that there was no data showing how individual teachers or teacher education programs impact student achievement in our schools. While we had voluminous data in each of our education sectors, it was difficult to track and correlate across systems.

In cooperation with the NC Department of Public Instruction, UNC is now conducting a major longitudinal study to identify teacher education programs and best practices that produce classroom teachers who improve student achievement, differentiated by elementary, middle, and high school. We are already using the early findings of that work to bring about improvements in our 15 teacher education programs and are embarking on companion research to identify those programs that produce school leaders who have the greatest impact on teacher and student achievement. As you know, we were an

enthusiastic participant in a recent federal grant proposal to support the development of a broader North Carolina B-20+ Statewide Longitudinal Data System. I am convinced that both of these collaborative research efforts are absolutely essential to achieving your long-term goals for our public schools.

In closing, please know that the University fully supports North Carolina's participation in the national Common Core State Standards Initiative. We pledge to do our part to help align North Carolina's high school academic standards to University expectations so that all students arrive on our campuses with the core skills and knowledge they will need to be successful and graduate. Thank you for your ongoing leadership and for your proven commitment to public education at all levels.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Erskine Bowles', written over a large, stylized, handwritten letter 'E'.

Erskine Bowles

North Carolina
INDEPENDENT
Colleges & Universities

A. Hope Williams
President

January 15, 2010

The Honorable Beverly Eaves Perdue
Governor, State of North Carolina
Office of the Governor
20301 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-0301

Dear Governor:

North Carolina Independent Colleges and Universities (NCICU) and the 36 individual private colleges and universities across the state are proud to endorse the excellent collaborative work that has been done to produce an outstanding application for *Race to the Top* funds. Other members of the NCICU staff and I have participated as a part of the working group that developed the various components of this proposal. Two of the most important areas in higher education are teacher education and development and longitudinal data system.

All 35 four year private colleges and universities have teacher education programs and are committed to working with the state to strengthen these programs to produce even more effective teachers. In addition, individual campuses provide professional development that is so important in keeping veteran teachers up to date in areas such as technology. These campuses look forward to increasing professional development opportunities through the *Race to the Top* funding.

The proposal for the longitudinal data system for North Carolina has been developed in concert with the 3 public sectors of education, NCICU and the Employment Security Commission. Representatives of each sector have worked together closely to recommend the system with a common identifier other than a Social Security number and ways for following students throughout their educational careers and into the work force. The information provided by the system will be a great resource for North Carolina policymakers as they strive to continue to improve education opportunities for the citizens of North Carolina.

NCICU applauds you and the members of your staff who have worked so long and so hard in collaboration with all sectors of education and members of the

Barton College
Wilson
Belmont Abbey College
Belmont
Bennett College for Women
Greensboro
Brevard College
Brevard
Cabarrus College of Health Sciences
Concord
Campbell University
Buies Creek
Catawba College
Salisbury
Chowan University
Murfreesboro
Davidson College
Davidson
Duke University
Durham
Elon University
Elon
Gardner-Webb University
Boiling Springs
Greensboro College
Greensboro
Guilford College
Greensboro
High Point University
High Point
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Livingstone College
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Mount Olive
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Shaw University
Raleigh
Wake Forest University
Winston-Salem
Warren Wilson College
Asheville
Wingate University
Wingate

The Honorable Beverly Eaves Perdue
January 15, 2010
Page Two

business community to develop a *Race to the Top* proposal that the entire state can work together to implement. NCICU and I, specifically, stand ready, as always, to work with you on this proposal and to produce more teachers and better educated students in our great state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "A. Hope Williams".

A. Hope Williams

AHW/ghh

To Whom it May Concern:

As teacher leaders in the state of North Carolina, we support our state's goal of preparing all students to graduate from high school being college and career ready. In addition, we recognize that North Carolina is on the forefront in reference to many education initiatives including, but not limited to, aligned educator evaluation instruments, the Accountability and Curriculum Reform Effort (ACRE), and our efforts in turning around the lowest achieving schools.

Therefore, as Regional and State Teachers of the Year and Milken Educators, we enthusiastically support North Carolina's application for the Race to the Top Grant. We are excited about the possibilities that these funds will afford our students and the impact this type of support will have on student achievement in our state.

Do not hesitate to contact us if you would like further evidence of our support for our Superintendent, Dr. June Atkinson, and our Department of Public Instruction as we work diligently in North Carolina to make a difference in the lives of children.

Sincerely,

Cindi Rigsbee 08-09 North Carolina Teacher of the Year Gravelly Hill Middle School Orange County Schools	Jessica Garner 09-10 North Carolina Teacher of the Year Porter Ridge High School Union County Schools
Martha Anderson 09-10 Sandhills/South Central Region Teacher of the Year Washington Street Elementary Richmond County Schools	Paige Elliott 08-09 North Central Region Teacher of the Year Fuquay-Varina High School Wake County Schools
Nicole Murray 09-10 Southeast Regional Teacher of the Year James Kenan School of Engineering Duplin County Schools	Trisha Muse 08-09 Sandhills/South Central Region Teacher of the Year Page Street Elementary Montgomery County Schools
Ruth Ann Parker 08-09 Southeast Region Teacher of the Year Clinton High School Clinton City Schools	Renee Peoples 08-09 West Region Teacher of the Year West Elementary Swain County Schools
Janice Raper 08-09 Northwest Region Teacher of the Year Hurley Elementary School Rowan-Salisbury Schools	Sonya Rinehart 08-09 Northeast Region Teacher of the Year John Holmes High School Edenton-Chowan Public Schools
Robert Turner 09-10 Northwest Region Teacher of the Year Grandview Middle School Hickory Public Schools	Bernard Waugh 08-09 Southwest Region Teacher of the Year Kannapolis Intermediate School Kannapolis City Schools
Bryan Holley 2008 Milken Educator Corinth Holder Elementary School Johnston County Schools	Cynthia Rudolph 2009 Milken Educator Hopewell High School Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools

January 14, 2010

The Honorable Beverly Perdue
Governor
State of North Carolina
20301 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699

Dear Governor Perdue:

Congratulations on putting together a solid Race to the Top application for North Carolina. You and the many team members who have worked on this project are to be commended for producing a document that outlines a strong plan to address the Fund's four reform goals.

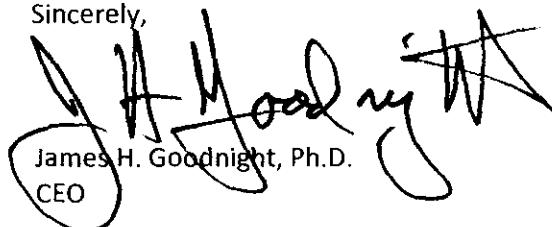
I offer my enthusiastic support for this proposal, because I believe the application's programs will prepare our students for college, work, and success in the 21st century. Having an educated citizenry is the key to a prosperous economy, and the programs you propose will help to provide the workforce we need.

North Carolina has a long and proud history of making education a priority. This application builds upon that strong history by leveraging current reform efforts and proposing new models for teaching and learning with a 21st century delivery system. I am especially impressed with your success in bringing together an unprecedented number of foundations, businesses, education organizations and government entities to support our schools. Because of this broad-based support, your proposal describes a strong, sustainable plan for 21st century education throughout the state.

As you know, I am passionate about excellence in K-12 education and the power that technology brings to the classroom. I believe North Carolina's economy is at a significant crossroad, and our destiny is inextricably linked to the quality of our workforce. To remain competitive in the global economy, we must engage students with technology, increase our high school graduation rates and graduate students prepared to compete globally. I believe your proposal has the potential to bring us much closer to these essential goals.

The programs in the Race to the Top application will lay the groundwork for exciting possibilities afforded by the "Investing in Innovation Fund". As North Carolina moves forward with this application process, please let me know how SAS and other businesses in North Carolina can ensure the success of these efforts.

Sincerely,



James H. Goodnight, Ph.D.
CEO



PUBLIC EDUCATION: NORTH CAROLINA'S BEST INVESTMENT

EDWIN E. DUNLAP, JR., PH.D.
Executive Director

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Edgecombe

G. H. Wilson
Sampson

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COUNCIL

Kenneth Lanier, 2007-08

Almetta Armstrong, 2006-07

Linda Cranford, 2004-05

Larry Lancaster, 2002-03

Leonard Peace, 2000-01

Emily Manning, 1999-00

Dr. Christine Fitch, 1996-97

January 8, 2010

The Honorable Beverly Perdue
Governor of North Carolina
20301 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-0301

Dear Governor Perdue:

On behalf of the North Carolina School Boards Association (NCSBA) and its 115 member school boards, I am pleased to endorse North Carolina's proposal for Race to the Top funding. The development of this proposal was accomplished due to a successful collaboration between education interest groups and the various offices of state government.

I want to fully acknowledge and express my thanks to you and your leadership in setting the stage for the public engagement activities that enabled this application to go forward. The development team consistently engaged and encouraged participation from NCSBA and individual school board members, administrators, teachers, and parents. The environment for this project's development was made possible because of your strong executive leadership.

What began as a healthy exchange of ideas evolved into a powerful framework for taking our schools forward into the future. The exhaustive work and bold new ideas reflected in North Carolina's proposal give me every confidence that we are definitely on the right track.

Please know that you can count on my total support as we move forward.

Sincerely,

Edwin Dunlap, Jr., Ph.D.

cc: Board of Directors



Kyle R. Robertson, President
3501 Glenwood Avenue, Raleigh, NC 27612
(919) 787-0534, (800) 255-0417 (NC)
Fax: (919) 787-0569, www.ncpta.org
E-mail: office@ncpta.org

January 13, 2010

The Honorable Beverly Perdue
Governor of North Carolina
20301 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-0301

Dear Governor Perdue:

North Carolina PTA is pleased to support the goals of North Carolina's application for Race to the Top funding. We believe the goals of this application and your education agenda for the state of North Carolina align perfectly with PTA's vision of "making every child's potential a reality."

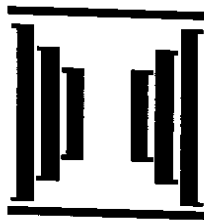
I want to thank you for including North Carolina PTA (representing parents and caregivers of NC) in the application process. Parent involvement is key to student success, and we hope to continue to be involved in the implementation of the Race to the Top goals.

We look forward to working with you and other education leaders and organizations as we all strive to make sure that every child in North Carolina receives a quality education in a safe environment with highly qualified teachers and the technology and tools necessary to be successful in their educational endeavors and in life.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kyle R. Robertson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mrs. Kyle R. Robertson
NCPTA President



NORTH CAROLINA COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM

R. SCOTT RALLS, Ph.D.
PRESIDENT

January 14, 2010

ALAMANCE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
ASHEVILLE-BUNCOMBE TECHNICAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE
BEAUFORT COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
BLADEN COMMUNITY COLLEGE
BLUE RIDGE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
BRUNSWICK COMMUNITY COLLEGE
CALDWELL COMMUNITY COLLEGE & TECHNICAL INSTITUTE
CAPE FEAR COMMUNITY COLLEGE
CARTERET COMMUNITY COLLEGE
CATAWBA VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
CENTRAL CAROLINA COMMUNITY COLLEGE
CENTRAL PIEDMONT COMMUNITY COLLEGE
CLEVELAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE
COASTAL CAROLINA COMMUNITY COLLEGE
COLLEGE OF THE ALBEMARLE
CRAVEN COMMUNITY COLLEGE
DAVIDSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
DURHAM TECHNICAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE
EDGEcombe COMMUNITY COLLEGE
FAYETTEVILLE TECHNICAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE
FORSYTH TECHNICAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE
GASTON COLLEGE
GUILFORD TECHNICAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE
HALIFAX COMMUNITY COLLEGE
HAYWOOD COMMUNITY COLLEGE
ISOTHERMAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE
JAMES SPRUNT COMMUNITY COLLEGE
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LENOIR COMMUNITY COLLEGE
MARTIN COMMUNITY COLLEGE
MAYLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE
MCDOWELL TECHNICAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE
MITCHELL COMMUNITY COLLEGE
MONTGOMERY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
NASH COMMUNITY COLLEGE
PAMLICO COMMUNITY COLLEGE
PIEDMONT COMMUNITY COLLEGE
PITT COMMUNITY COLLEGE
RANDOLPH COMMUNITY COLLEGE
RICHMOND COMMUNITY COLLEGE
ROANOKE-CHOWAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE
ROBESON COMMUNITY COLLEGE
ROCKINGHAM COMMUNITY COLLEGE
ROWAN-CABARRUS COMMUNITY COLLEGE
SAMPSON COMMUNITY COLLEGE
SANDHILLS COMMUNITY COLLEGE
SOUTH PIEDMONT COMMUNITY COLLEGE
SOUTHEASTERN COMMUNITY COLLEGE
SOUTHWESTERN COMMUNITY COLLEGE
STANLY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
SURRY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
TRI-COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
VANCE-GRANVILLE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
WAKE TECHNICAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE
WAYNE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
WESTERN PIEDMONT COMMUNITY COLLEGE
WILKES COMMUNITY COLLEGE
WILSON COMMUNITY COLLEGE

The Honorable Beverly Eaves Perdue
Governor, State of North Carolina
Office of the Governor
20301 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-0301

Dear Governor Perdue:

On behalf of the North Carolina Community College System, I am more than pleased to provide my support for the State's application for federal funding for the *Race to the Top* initiative. Our 58 local colleges have been long standing partners with the Department of Public Instruction and the University of North Carolina System and that spirit of collaboration is stronger than ever as we work towards your commitment to ensure that every child in this great State graduates from high school with the necessary skills to succeed in a career, a two- or four-year college, or in technical training.

You have laid out a bold and challenging call to action in your "Career and College – Ready, Set, Go!" agenda, one which the Community College System wholly embraces. We have begun a "SuccessNC" initiative that focuses upon student access, program quality, and student success. Consistent with the *Race to the Top* initiative, and in collaboration with our public education and higher education partners, we will place a strengthened emphasis on students graduating from high school ready to be successful. We will strengthen our already strong association with high schools through our concurrent enrollment and cooperative and innovative high schools; we will work with public schools to implement student assessment and course alignment opportunities; we will embrace common course standards that will focus upon students being ready for college. That is an access issue, and one that should result in significantly diminished requirements for remediation at the college level.

Further, program quality in community colleges will be a companion piece to common core standards, which means that students are sufficiently prepared in high school for the challenges of college-rigor work – work in college that leads high school graduates to obtain marketable credentials.

The Honorable Beverly Eaves Perdue

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January 14, 2010

Finally, the ultimate prize in a race is to reach the goal, that of successful student completion, leading to a career in one's chosen field. High school graduates who arrive prepared for college, who are challenged when they arrive with program quality, and who leave college with a meaningful college credential that has market value, will reach their goal of employability in a career that enables them to support themselves and their family.

Governor, what you have proposed in the Race to the Top, along with your focus upon high school students in Career and College Ready, is exactly where the North Carolina Community College System is headed. As the seam in seamless education, we already have our shoulder to the wheel with you, the Department of Public Instruction and the University of North Carolina System to break down silos and put ourselves to work for the success of high school students.

As such, I am joined by the community college family in strongly supporting the Race to the Top application that you are submitting.

With highest regards, I am

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Scott Ralls". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "R" and a stylized "S" and "R" following.

R. Scott Ralls

January 14, 2010

Honorable Beverly M. Perdue
Governor
State of North Carolina
20301 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699


Dear Governor Perdue:

The organized business community's long-standing commitment to education in North Carolina has played a critical role in making our state among the best places in the world in which to do business.

On behalf of our leadership, the North Carolina Chamber is proud to endorse our state's application to be considered for the 'RACE TO THE TOP' funding program.

In these difficult and challenging times, investing in our future has never been more important.

Sincerely,


S. Lewis Ebert
President & CEO

SLE/cab



North Carolina Association of Teacher Assistants
PO Box 893
Lewisville, NC 27023

Governor Bev Perdue
Office of the Governor
20301 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-0301

Dear Governor Perdue:

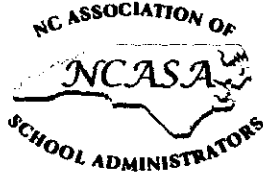
As President of the North Carolina Association of Teacher Assistants, I want to express NCATA's support of North Carolina's application for the federal Race to the Top funds. We understand that the state is applying for a grant from the U.S. Department of Education to improve the quality of education and increase student achievement for *all* students.

We agree that Race to the Top will provide opportunities for important reforms in North Carolina's educational system that will lead to innovation and strengthen academic growth. Teacher assistants are valuable members of our educational teams. We are conscientious and dedicated educators who desire and deserve professional development in order to better serve our students. Therefore, NCATA appreciates that the funding for professional development will include professional development for teacher assistants as well as for teachers and principals.

We recognize the importance of our state receiving the Race to the Top grant and understand that this must be a collaborative effort. The North Carolina Association of Teacher Assistants thanks you for your recognition of teacher assistants and our organization. We are thankful to have been given the opportunity to be included in the application process and look forward to being a part of the implementation phase as well.

Sincerely,

Judy Barnes
President, North Carolina Association of Teacher Assistants



NC ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS

January 11, 2010

The Honorable Beverly Perdue
Governor of North Carolina
20301 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-0301

Dear Governor Perdue:

On behalf of the North Carolina Association of School Administrators (NCASA) and our 6,000 members who are leading the daily operations in our state's 115 school districts, we are pleased to continue our partnership with you as we embark upon a "Race to the Top" with our public schools and work to bring our state some well deserved national acclaim and funding from the federal grant program bearing that name.

Our organization shares your deep commitment to ensuring that North Carolina public schools excel with the four priority goals that are a hallmark of our state's Race to the Top (RttT) application:

- Raising achievement and closing gaps,
- Implementing a statewide longitudinal data system,
- Improving teacher and principal effectiveness, and
- Turning around our lowest-achieving schools.

We are convinced that North Carolina is uniquely qualified to succeed with each of these priorities and to thereby be deemed as a Race to the Top recipient. Our state's unparalleled success includes, but is not limited to, our history of innovation and progress in public schools, our centralized state role in ensuring commitment to academic success in every community, our long-standing tradition of state leaders who make public school progress a top priority, and the unquestionable strength of the framework we already have in place for taking our schools and students to the next level.

We are pleased to offer our organization's support for the goals and commitments of North Carolina's application for the Race to the Top funding, and we stand ready to assist you and other state and local education leaders in meeting our state's obligations to ensure that any RttT investment in North Carolina will be a true success.

Again, we commend your ongoing commitment to strong and thriving public schools in North Carolina, and we look forward to working with you as we continue our state's "Race to the Top" in educational excellence.

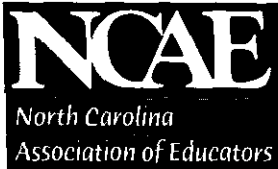
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Larry E. Price".

Larry E. Price
President

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Bill McNeal".

Bill McNeal
Executive Director



700 South Salisbury Street
P.O. Box 27347
Raleigh, NC 27611-7347
(919) 832-3000 • 1-800-662-7924
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President

Sheri M. Strickland

Vice President

Rodney Ellis Sr.

Executive Director

Scott Anderson

Associate

Executive Director

Dr. Kelvin L. Spragley

Deputy

Executive Director

Dr. Richard Miller

January 14, 2010

The Honorable Beverly Perdue
20301 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-0301

Dear Governor:

As you know, the North Carolina Association of Educators (NCAE) has long fought to improve the quality of public schools and the quality of teaching in the state of North Carolina. We have embraced the collaborative effort in putting together the Race to the Top (RTTT) grant application and the honest dialogue about how provisions in the grant impact the classroom.

The NCAE believes that all education stakeholders should constantly be engaged in a conversation about how we transform our public schools so that we are meeting the needs of our citizenry and the demands of an interconnected global economy. We believe that every child has value and that a child and a teacher are more than just a test score. NCAE has long embraced the four key goals in Race to the Top; great teachers and leaders, strong assessments, innovation in the classroom, and turning around low performing schools. In order to truly transform our schools North Carolina must continue to listen to the great educators across our state and to provide them the tools they need to be successful.

The application process has been very collaborative and has included over 20 state NCAE leaders and the engagement of over 100 local affiliate presidents. We are encouraged by the guarantee that we will continue to be at the table as decision are made.

The NCAE has long struggled with issues surrounding tying educator compensation to test scores. We believe that viewing teacher performance only through the lens of a test is unfair to both the student and the teacher. We appreciate the guarantee from you and the State Board of Education that any proposed compensation system will look at multiple measures and will continue to tie compensation to skills, responsibilities, and education level.

We support your work to improve our public school system and with the promise of continued collaboration we support the framework that is outlined in this grant.

Sincerely,

Sheri Strickland
NCAE President



North Carolina Principals & Assistant Principals Association

CAPITAL BANK PLAZA • 333 FAYETTEVILLE STREET • SUITE 1410

P.O. BOX 27711 • RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA • 27611

email: info@ncpapa.net 1-800-766-1632

website: www.ncpapa.org Fax: 919-828-6099

January 14, 2010

Governor Bev Perdue
Office of the Governor
20301 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-0301

Dear Honorable Governor Perdue,

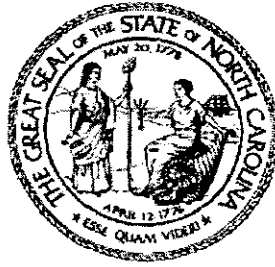
The North Carolina Principals and Assistant Principals' Association is pleased to express its full support for our state's Race to the Top grant proposal. We are especially supportive of your ongoing commitment to the professional development of our state's principals and your systemic, innovative and comprehensive approach to improving student results.

We are optimistic about the future of education in our great state under your leadership. North Carolina's educational vision, guided by a history of highly enlightened leadership, is in direct alignment to the vision and mission of our professional association. We commend you for involving us throughout the development of our state's Race to the Top proposal. You have called upon our association to help build and respond to the basic premises of the proposal, and you have gone above and beyond to assure us that we will be involved in developing the implementation details of potentially controversial issues such as those affecting teacher evaluations. We applaud you and your leadership team for their sincere and deliberate efforts to engage all stakeholders.

Our professional association stands ready to work in concert with our state's educational community to realize North Carolina's Race to the Top goals.

Sincerely,

Shirley B. Prince, Ed.D.
NCPAPA Executive Director



CHIEF JUSTICE BURLEY B. MITCHELL, JR. (Ret'd)
State of North Carolina
4301 City of Oaks Wynd
Raleigh, NC 27612

January 5, 2010

Governor Beverly E. Perdue
Office of the Governor
20301 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-0301

RECEIVED

JAN 07 2010

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Dear Governor Perdue:

Our state is poised to make major strides as a result of your proposal to the U.S. Department of Education Race to the Top initiative. As the Chairman of the NC New Schools Project, our state's leading secondary school innovation intermediary, I am honored to lend my support to this far reaching effort. During the past six months more than a hundred leaders have participated in the development of an integrated set of strategies that will simultaneously strengthen the capacity of teachers and principals while also building upon North Carolina's early success with school innovation especially in communities and schools serving high needs students.

Over the past six years as the NC New Schools Project has collaborated with the Office of the Governor and the State Board of Education to establish one of the country's leading secondary school innovation and early college high school initiatives. The creation of these schools provides more than ample evidence that building a stronger corps of administrators and teachers is essential for our state to realize high levels of achievement in every community. Further, the use of data and technology for enhanced school accountability and to almost surgically align new approaches to professional development with targeted needs is unprecedented.

Your Race to the Top proposal accomplishes these significant steps and much more. We are especially gratified to see how the proposal will accelerate the next phase of secondary school innovation with an enhanced emphasis on economic and workforce development in those communities with great need. The NC New Schools Project stands ready to support you in moving this effort forward with great enthusiasm. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Burley Mitchell".

Burley Mitchell
Former Chief Justice
NC Supreme Court
and Chairman,
NC New Schools Project, Inc.

HOWARD E. MANNING, JR.
SUPERIOR COURT JUDGE
WAKE COUNTY COURTHOUSE
P.O. Box 351
RALEIGH, N.C. 27602
(919)792-4955 (direct)
(919)792-4951 (f)

January 12, 2010

Honorable Beverly Perdue
Governor
State of North Carolina
State Capitol
Raleigh, North Carolina

Re: **North Carolina Race to the Top Application**

Dear Governor Perdue:

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to review the proposed **North Carolina Race to the Top Application**. I have read **all 167 pages** minus the appendices with a view towards measuring the comprehensive reform agenda set forth in the application against the requirements of the **Leandro** decision and the North Carolina Constitution's guarantee that each child in North Carolina be provided with the equal opportunity to obtain a sound basic education as hereafter set forth:

The North Carolina Supreme Court's decisions in **Leandro I** (346 N.C. 336) on July 24, 1997 and **Leandro II** (358 N.C. 605) on July 30, 2004, set in stone, once and for all, the following tenets relating to the Constitutional guarantee to each child of the right to an equal opportunity to obtain a sound basic education:

FIRST: We conclude that Article I, Section 16 and Article IX, Section 2 of the North Carolina Constitution combine to guarantee every child of this state an opportunity to receive a sound basic education in our public schools. For purposes of our Constitution, a 'sound basic education' is one that will provide the student with at least:

1. **sufficient ability to read, write and speak the English language and a sufficient knowledge of fundamental mathematics and physical science to enable the student to function in a complex and rapidly changing society;**
2. **sufficient fundamental knowledge of geography, history and basic economic and political systems to enable the student to make**

- informed choices with regard to issues that affect the student personally or affect the student's community, state and nation;
3. sufficient academic and vocational skills to enable the student to successfully engage in post-secondary education and training; and
 4. sufficient academic and vocational skills to enable the student to compete on an equal basis with others in further *formal education or gainful employment* in contemporary society.." emphasis added; (Leandro I p. 347).....

SECOND: Article I, Section 15 and Article IX, Section 2 of the North Carolina Constitution, as interpreted by Leandro, guarantee to each and every child the right to an equal opportunity to obtain a sound basic education requires that each child be afforded the opportunity to attend a public school which has the following educational resources, at a minimum:

First, that every classroom be staffed with a competent, certified, well-trained teacher who is teaching the standard course of study by implementing effective educational methods that provide differentiated, individualized instruction, assessment and remediation to the students in that classroom.

Second, that every school be led by a well-trained competent Principal with the leadership skills and the ability to hire and retain competent, certified and well-trained teachers who can implement an effective and cost-effective instructional program that meets the needs of at-risk children so that they can have the equal opportunity to obtain a sound basic education by achieving grade level or above academic performance.

Third, that every school be provided, in the most cost effective manner, the resources necessary to support the effective instructional program within that school so that the educational needs of all children, including at-risk children, to have the equal opportunity to obtain a sound basic education, can be met.

THIRD: The State of North Carolina is **ultimately responsible** for ensuring that the foregoing minimum educational opportunities are available for each and every child in the public schools of North Carolina regardless of where the children are located and the failure of a local school district (LEA) to provide the foregoing minimal educational assets to its children does **not diminish or relieve the State of North Carolina of its ultimate responsibility** for ensuring every child have the equal opportunity to obtain a sound basic education.

FOURTH: That in school districts (LEAs) where children are not being provided with the equal opportunity to obtain a sound basic education, the State must assume responsibility for, and correct, those educational methods and practices

that contribute to the failure to provide children with a constitutionally – conforming education.

FIFTH: That when the State assesses and implements plans to correct educational obligations in the face of a constitutional deficiency in an LEA, or particular school, the solution proposed must ensure competent teachers in classrooms, competent principals in schools and adequate resources to support the instructional and support programs in that school so as to be **Leandro** compliant.

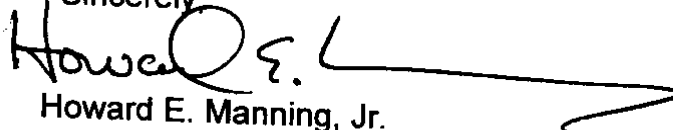
The **North Carolina Race to the Top Application** contains, in my opinion, an excellent, comprehensive plan, that if effectively implemented in its entirety, can bring about substantial educational benefits to North Carolina's children, including those at-risk

Without re-inventing the wheel, I am particularly impressed with the **Race to the Top Application's** reform areas and guidelines that are focused on:

1. 21st Century curriculum standards.
2. Emphasis and insistence on the universal use of formative, diagnostic, benchmark and summative assessments and data to drive instruction.
3. The implementation, already in process in North Carolina, of new professional standards and evaluation for teachers and administrators which will ultimately be tied to accountability for student performance.
4. Utilization of 21st Century data systems statewide
5. Utilization of technology and evaluations which will improve teaching, individual learning by children, policy decisions, and evaluations.
6. Emphasis on improving teacher quality, teacher education and thereby improving student achievement for children.
7. Emphasis on improving low performing schools whether they are urban or suburban schools by increasing the quality of teaching and the quality of leadership in those schools – which is a problem that I am having to deal with on an on-going basis.

In the interest of the shortness of life, I am going to have to stop. Suffice it to say that the **Race to the Top Application** sets forth focused goals and objectives for education reform that will greatly improve educational opportunity for students so that the North Carolina Constitution and **Leandro** promise to provide every child in North Carolina with an equal opportunity to obtain a sound basic education can finally be realized and I can close this case. I hope that North Carolina wins the race.

Sincerely


Howard E. Manning, Jr.

To Whom it May Concern:

As teacher leaders in the state of North Carolina, we support our state's goal of preparing all students to graduate from high school being college and career ready. In addition, we recognize that North Carolina is on the forefront in reference to many education initiatives including, but not limited to, aligned educator evaluation instruments, the Accountability and Curriculum Reform Effort (ACRE), and our efforts in turning around the lowest achieving schools.

Therefore, as Regional and State Teachers of the Year and Milken Educators, we enthusiastically support North Carolina's application for the Race to the Top Grant. We are excited about the possibilities that these funds will afford our students and the impact this type of support will have on student achievement in our state.

Do not hesitate to contact us if you would like further evidence of our support for our Superintendent, Dr. June Atkinson, and our Department of Public Instruction as we work diligently in North Carolina to make a difference in the lives of children.

Sincerely,

Cindi Rigsbee 08-09 North Carolina Teacher of the Year Gravelly Hill Middle School Orange County Schools	Jessica Garner 09-10 North Carolina Teacher of the Year Porter Ridge High School Union County Schools
Martha Anderson 09-10 Sandhills/South Central Region Teacher of the Year Washington Street Elementary Richmond County Schools	Paige Elliott 08-09 North Central Region Teacher of the Year Fuquay-Varina High School Wake County Schools
Nicole Murray 09-10 Southeast Regional Teacher of the Year James Kenan School of Engineering Duplin County Schools	Trisha Muse 08-09 Sandhills/South Central Region Teacher of the Year Page Street Elementary Montgomery County Schools
Ruth Ann Parker 08-09 Southeast Region Teacher of the Year Clinton High School Clinton City Schools	Renee Peoples 08-09 West Region Teacher of the Year West Elementary Swain County Schools
Janice Raper 08-09 Northwest Region Teacher of the Year Hurley Elementary School Rowan-Salisbury Schools	Sonya Rinehart 08-09 Northeast Region Teacher of the Year John Holmes High School Edenton-Chowan Public Schools
Robert Turner 09-10 Northwest Region Teacher of the Year Grandview Middle School Hickory Public Schools	Bernard Waugh 08-09 Southwest Region Teacher of the Year Kannapolis Intermediate School Kannapolis City Schools
Bryan Holley 2008 Milken Educator Corinth Holder Elementary School Johnston County Schools	Cynthia Rudolph 2009 Milken Educator Hopewell High School Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools



(LONG-TERM ECONOMIC ADVANCEMENT FOUNDATION)

JESSIE THOMAS BUNN
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

January 14, 2010

DAN GERLACH
PRESIDENT

The Honorable Beverly Perdue
Governor, State of North Carolina
20301 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-301

Dear Governor Perdue:

The Golden LEAF Foundation is pleased to show our support through this endorsement for North Carolina's Race to the Top proposal. We are pleased to have participated in the process used to craft North Carolina's proposal and feel it builds on several innovative efforts undertaken by the State, including the NC Learning Technology Initiative.

Please share our appreciation to the many folks and organizations that contributed to the effort over the past 9 months, especially those that did much of the heavy lifting like the staff of NC State University's Friday Institute for Educational Innovation. The development team consistently offered opportunities for participation in the process and input into the design of the document from a broad group of stakeholders. We greatly appreciate the level of engagement offered to Golden LEAF and other organizations working to improve education here in NC.

The proposal draws on innovative practices that we feel are important to the creation of a 21st Century skilled workforce critical to sustaining and growing economically competitive communities across our great state, especially in rural areas that are of great interest to the foundation. Golden LEAF is also pleased that the work proposed in the Race to the Top application is an extension of our investment of more than \$10 million to support the development of effective models for deploying technology to students and teachers through the One-to-One initiative.

Thank you for the strong leadership you displayed in assembling such a strong and diverse team of leaders to spearhead the effort. We look forward to working with you to carry out this and other efforts to produce a globally competitive workforce to drive economic growth.

With kindest regards,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Dan Gerlach".

Dan Gerlach
President

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Mark Sorrells".

Mark Sorrells
Senior Vice President



DUKE UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER & HEALTH SYSTEM

Victor J. Dzau, M.D.
Chancellor for Health Affairs, Duke University
President and Chief Executive Officer, Duke University Health System

December 22, 2009

Governor Beverly Eaves Perdue
Office of the Governor
20301 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-0301

Dear Governor ^{Bew}Perdue:

Duke Medicine is a proud partner in efforts to transform secondary education in North Carolina and your Race to the Top proposal offers promise for accelerating progress in every corner of the state. As a global leader for quality healthcare, Duke Medicine recognizes the vital importance of human capital development to quality healthcare *and* quality education. The Race to the Top proposal will build a powerful new pipeline for teacher and administrator quality based upon data and effective school-based professional development as part of a comprehensive approach to creating highly effective schools in every community.

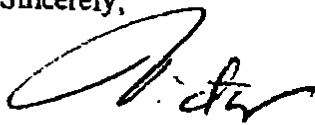
Duke Medicine is proud to partner with you and your education agenda. For five years we have been involved with the Durham Public Schools' City of Medicine Academy (CMA). Duke Medicine has funded scholarships for students who have graduated from the academy and enrolled in a four-year college. Our faculty and staff are volunteering at the academy. It was my pleasure to work with the Durham County and Durham Public Schools to provide land located on the campus of Durham Regional Hospital for the building of a new high school that will house the CMA. This location will afford a greater opportunity for the students to have internships at the hospital and for staff to spend time at the school. We are proud that twelve of the students had internships at our hospitals this past summer. The North Carolina New Schools Project will enhance the CMA's goals to educate and train a quality health care workforce. The school will have the opportunity to incorporate leading STEM practices, including the National Academy of Engineers "Grand Challenges" initiative, which will support the creation of health-themed secondary schools across the state. In coming years a robust network of health and life sciences schools in each of the state's economic development regions will be connected to higher education, medical centers, research organizations, and other health related industries. These schools will also benefit from your

considerable leadership for internet connectivity to ensure that every teacher and student will have access to the best available curriculum and peer support.

The Race to the Top proposal will facilitate a broad range of school quality and STEM-related initiatives that will all intersect with your agenda for economic development. The proposal will ultimately create jobs and a new generation of entrepreneurs fully prepared to lead in the years to come.

On behalf of Duke Medicine, I am pleased to join in endorsing your Race to the Top proposal and to assist with advancing school innovation in North Carolina.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Victor J. Dzau".

Victor J. Dzau, M.D.

Best regards!

Cc: MaryAnn Black
Tony Habit (CMA)
Hank Hurd (DPS)
Elizabeth Shearer (CMA)



**State of North Carolina
Office of the Lieutenant Governor**

WALTER H. DALTON
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR
lt.gov@nc.gov

20401 MAIL SERVICE CENTER
RALEIGH, NC 27699-0401
TELEPHONE: (919) 733-7350

January 14, 2010

The Honorable Beverly Perdue
Governor, State of North Carolina
20301 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-0301

Dear Governor Perdue,

It is with great pleasure that I endorse and lend my support to North Carolina's Race to the Top proposal to strengthen our public schools. With this effort, you join a line of great education governors who have made North Carolina a national leader in educational reform. I believe the proposal you have so skillfully assembled will strengthen a system of public education that already has come a long way toward delivering a sound education to all of its public school students.

I am particularly pleased with the commitment in this proposal to reducing the dropout rate, enhancing science, technology, engineering and math education, and turning around our lowest-performing schools. All of these efforts are going to help prepare our young people more fully for 21st Century jobs.

As you know, I am a strong believer in early college high schools that enable our young people to earn an advanced technical degree at an accelerated pace or get a head start on their four-year college degree. I was pleased to see this concept recognized and supported in the state's proposal. I also wholeheartedly support efforts to close the achievement gap, support teachers in our hard to staff rural schools and improve the state's ability to recognize and reward excellent teaching and leadership. I am pleased to see that all of these objectives are advanced in our state's Race to the Top proposal, and I'm confident that if funded, this endeavor will be of benefit to North Carolina citizens for many years to come. Please let me know if there is anything I can do to help advance this proposal.

Most Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Walter Dalton".

Walter Dalton
Lieutenant Governor





Cynthia G. Marshall
President
AT&T North Carolina

Suite 800
150 Fayetteville St. Mall
Raleigh, NC 27601-1395

T: 919 835-1267
F: 919 835 1653
cynthia.marshall@att.com

January 13, 2010

The Honorable Beverly Perdue
Governor of North Carolina
20301 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-0301

Dear Governor Perdue:

AT&T has long had a strong and unwavering commitment to supporting efforts to improve education, opening doors of opportunity for all students and helping them achieve academic and personal success. We share your belief in young people and in the lasting and life-changing benefits of education. We have been excited by your vision and leadership and look forward to continuing to partner with you and your team in the Race to the Top initiative.

The four priority goal areas covered by the Race to the Top application are foundational elements to the education reform and improvement initiatives which you and your predecessors have championed. It was encouraging to see that indicators to which North Carolina has looked will now be benchmarks on the national stage.

At AT&T, we believe that investing in a well-educated workforce may be the single most important thing we can do to help America remain the leader in a digital, global economy. There is no better way to impact a community than through the education of its children. That is why we launched AT&T Aspire, a philanthropic program to help strengthen student success and workforce readiness, connecting the dots between what students learn in school and the skills they need in the workplace. It is why we have adopted a Charlotte Elementary school where nearly 100% of the students were below the poverty line and where our employees, alongside Communities in Schools, are helping build a culture of learning and academic excellence. It is why we work with your administration in sponsoring the AT&T Teacher of the Year program and why we support many other initiatives around the state.

Of all the states which will submit funding applications, I believe we present a unique and exciting opportunity for the Race to the Top program. You are the most recent in a long line of visionary North Carolina leaders, including former Governor Jim Hunt and former UNC President Bill Friday. We have a track record of "out-of-the-box" thinking leading to innovative programs such as the New Schools Project. We have exceptional teachers and administrators. And we are committed to public-private partnerships that bring together the public and private sectors to address issues, implement solutions and positively impact the lives of all citizens.



Governor, on behalf of AT&T North Carolina, I am pleased to assure you of our support for the goals and commitments of North Carolina's application for the Race to the Top funding. We want to help ensure that Race to the Top investment in North Carolina is a success and we are ready to assist you in bringing that about. We believe you are right on track and are providing precisely the policy our state needs now.

As you have heard me say in many settings, I firmly believe we must consider every child "at risk," for they are "at risk" of achieving something great. That is why I hope that North Carolina will not think of this opportunity simply as Race to the Top, but instead think of it as the Race to the Top... and BEYOND!

Thank you for your leadership and your dedication to education reform and excellence. This is a tremendous opportunity to take North Carolina's education processes and our students to a new level. We are anxious to be with you on the journey. We are ready – we are set – let's go.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cynthia G. Marshall".

Cynthia G. Marshall

**American Federation of Teachers / North Carolina**

Dianne Jackson
President

Donna Parke
Vice President

Thomas Brown
Treasurer

Thomas Hefner
Secretary

January 8, 2010

Dear North Carolina Education Leaders,

As president of American Federation of Teachers/North Carolina, I am writing to support North Carolina's Race to the Top application. I believe that this grant has the potential to greatly improve education for the children of North Carolina.

Our organization is fully supportive of the principles of Race to the Top, including the focus on improving standards and assessments; building data systems; recruiting, developing, and retaining high quality principals and teachers, and turning around the lowest achieving schools. Of course, we also appreciate that the U.S. Department of Education's acknowledgement that in order for reforms to succeed, they must be designed and developed with full partnership with teachers. Thus, as a state federation president, I am happy to sign onto a MOU that indicates that if North Carolina is awarded a Race to the Top grant, the leadership of AFT/NC will collaborate in good faith with local superintendents to develop and implement these initiatives.

Sincerely,

Dianne J. Jackson, President
American Federation of Teachers/North Carolina